



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/826,696

Confirmation No.: 9603

In re Application of:

Yoshihiko KURASHIMA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3749

Filed: April 19, 2004

Examiner: Unassigned

For: FIRING FURNACE AND FIRING METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of each of the references listed on Form PTO-1449 are attached.

Japanese Patent Application Laid Open No. 2002-340482 is cited in the above-identified application at page 2, line 21.

The above information is presented so that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR §1.104(a) and §1.106(b) concerning the USPTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the

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information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that these references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 25, 2004
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*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

[illegible][illegible]

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.